(c) Polythene covers, monofilament nets, cover taps etc. are procured in advance so that the stocks kept in CAP are protected from the vagaries of weather.

(d) Qualified and technically trained staff is deployed for periodic inspections and proper upkeep of foodgrains.

(e) Pest control measures are undertaken regularly.

(f) Arrangements are made to keep sufficient quantity of chemicals at each depot/storage point for prophylactic and curative treatments.

Efforts are continuously being made to create more covered storage space keeping in view the requirement and also the availability of resources. No time-frame can be set up in this context.

Poor quality of foodgrains and sugar for PDS and TPDS

1672. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that contrary to the claim of FCI, the quality of foodgrains and sugar issued for distribution under PDS and targeted PDS is very poor, particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure that only good quality foodgrains and sugar are supplied for PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Foodgrains of fair average quality, conforming to the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) standards are distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS). Sugar distributed under the PDS conforms to the India Sugar Standards (ISS).

In recent past, Government of Gujarat, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi complained about the supply of luster lost wheat and poor quality of foodgrains supplied under TPDS. It has been explained to the State Governments that except in appearance, lustre lost wheat is as good as sound wheat, specially in terms of nutritional value. The FCI officers have been instructed to ensure supply of good quality of foodgrains for distribution

under PDS. No specific complaint about the supply of poor quality of foodgrains and sugar in Andhra Pradesh has been received.

State Governments are free to inspect the stocks of the foodgrains and satisfy themselves about their quality before lifting the same from FCI depots. The State Governments have also been advised to depute an officer not below the rank of inspector to check the quality of stocks. FCI is supplying foodgrains to the State Governments as per laid down specifications of the Government after obtaining the certificate from State Government nominees that they are satisfied with the quality.

Levy sugar is allotted to the States/Union Territories subject *inter-alia*, to the condition that the quality of levy sugar to be supplied shall conform to ISS grade by sulphitation/carbonation process. As such, before lifting the sugar from sugar factory, the quality of sugar should conform to ISS and if sugar conforming to ISS is distributed under PDS, there will not be any complaint regarding its quality.

No complaint has been received from any State Government about the supply of sub-standards sugar under the PDS.

Export of Sugar

1673. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of sugar exported during the last three years; and

(b) the quantity of sugar proposed to be exported during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) As per the data published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, the quantity and value of sugar exported during the last three financial years are as under:—

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Export (lakh tonnes)	Value in Rs./Crores
1.	1999-2000	12,990	18.14
2.	2000-2001	3,38,691	430.97
3.	2001-2002	14,56,221(P)	1728.04(P)

(P) Provisional